

Kindly add new claims 8-10 as follows.

8. (New) The medicine packing apparatus as in Claim 2, wherein when a blank package belt is discriminated by the discriminating means, the distributing means distribute the blank package belt toward a discharge position.

9. (New) The medicine packing apparatus as in Claim 3, wherein when a blank package belt is discriminated by the discriminating means, the distributing means distribute the blank package belt toward a discharge position.

10. (New) The medicine packing apparatus as in Claim 6, wherein one of the arms of the gripping means has a press surface and wherein the moving means turns the gripping means so that the press portion presses the medicine package belt bound in the binding position to discharge it.